



Proclamation

WHEREAS, developmental dyspraxia is a disability resulting when messages from the brain are not properly sent to the body, causing motor difficulties and perceptual problems like clumsiness, sensitivity to touch, speech problems, and learning difficulties in children with average or above-average intelligence; and

WHEREAS, two percent of the population has dyspraxia in various degrees, which is approximately one in 20 children (one child per classroom), and boys are four times more likely than girls to have the disability; and

WHEREAS, dyspraxic children often suffer from self-esteem problems, being dismissed as clumsy or slow rather than having a reason for their struggles; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 percent of educators have never heard of dyspraxia; and

WHEREAS, through proper diagnosis, therapy, and teaching methods that integrate the five senses, dyspraxic children can learn to compensate for their inabilities and achieve success in school, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, advocates of dyspraxic children join in supporting George W. Bush and his program, "No Child Left Behind," by requesting a Developmental Dyspraxia Awareness Day to inform our school administrators, speech and occupational therapists, educators, and the general public about dyspraxia.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim August 19, 2004, as

DEVELOPMENTAL DYSPRAXIA AWARENESS DAY

in the state of Louisiana, and I encourage all school districts to identify and implement strategies that draw attention to the importance of diagnosis and therapy regarding developmental dyspraxia.



Attest By
The Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 12th day of August
A.D., 2004.*

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana